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Appalling Tragedy in Chicago River Claimed Over a Thousand Lives.

Chicago, July 24.—More than 1,000 persons, possibly 1,300, most of them women and children, were drowned today while in a few feet of land by the capsizing of the steel steamer Eastland, as it was about to leave its wharf in the Chicago river with 2,500 relatives and friends of employees of the Western Electric Company, for an excursion across Lake Michigan. The ship rolled over on its side in 25 feet of water within five minutes after it began to list.

Coroner's physician Springer tonight declared that at least a hundred persons were killed, while other estimates ran as high as 2,000, but these did not agree with the statement that not more than 2,500 passengers were on board the vessel. During the day more than 700 bodies were taken from the river and from the hull of the overturned steamer, whose sides were cut open with gas flames to admit divers.

Several persons were taken alive from the cabins of the ship after it had lain on its side in the river for four hours, but the 300 others said to be in the bulk are all dead.

Under the glare of searchlights tonight, scores of men worked in the hull of the vessel to remove the bodies. The steamer lay on the bottom of the river, one side protruding like a monument to the hundreds it had drowned as it turned over.

The ship, which had not been inspected by Federal inspectors, was conducting investigations to determine whether the ship was topheavy from faulty design, was improperly ballasted or was poorly handled in warping from the wharf.

Marine architects asserted that the Eastland was faulty in design, that the top deck had been removed because of the tendency of the ship to list and also pointed to the possibility that the ship had been unevenly or insufficiently ballasted. The Eastland used water ballast, so that it could pump out some on entering shallow lake harbors, so some investigators are working on a theory that the ballast tanks were not filled and the rushing of passengers to one side of the deck caused it to roll over.

Under misty skies, 7,000 men, women and children wended their way to the Clark street dock early today to fill five large lake steamers with holiday mirth in a trip to Michigan City. The steamer Eastland, brought to Chicago from Lake Erie, after an unsatisfactory career, was the first to be loaded.

Rain began to fall as the wharf superintendents lifted the gang planks from the vessel, declaring that the government limit of 2,500 passengers had been reached. White dresses peeped from raincoats along the shore rails as those aboard waved good-bye to friends on shore who were waiting to board the steamer Roosevelt and other vessels.

Then the passengers swarmed to the left side of the ship, as the other steamers drew up the river towards the wharf. A tug was hitched to the Eastland, ropes were ordered cast off and the steamer engines began to hum. The Eastland had not budged, however.

Instead, the heavily laden ship wavered sidewise, leaning first towards the river bank. The lurch was so startling that many

passengers joined the large concourse already on the river side of the decks.

The ship never heeled back. It turned slowly but steadily toward its left side. Children clutched the skirts of mothers and sisters to keep from falling. The whole cargo was impelled towards the falling side of the ship. Water began to enter lower portholes and the hawsers tore out the piles to which the vessel was tied.

Screams from passengers attracted the attention of fellow excursionists on the dock awaiting the next steamer. Wharfmen and picknickers soon lined the edge of the embankment, reaching out helplessly towards the wavering steamer.

For nearly five minutes the ship turned before it finally dived under the swift current of the river, which owing to the drainage canal system flows from the lake. During the mighty turning of the ship with its cargo of humanity, lifeboats, chairs and other loose appurtenances on the decks slipped down the sloping floors, crushing the passengers towards the rising waters.

Then there was a plunge with a sigh of air escaping from the hold, mingled with crying of children and shrieks of women and the ship was on the bottom of the river, casting hundreds of living creatures to the water.

Many sank, entangled with clothing, and bundles and did not rise but hundreds came to the surface, seized floating chairs and other objects. Those on shore threw out ropes and dragged in those who could hold these life lines. Employees of commission firms along the river threw crates, chicken coops and other floating things into the current, but most of these were swept away by the stream, which runs five miles an hour.

Boats put out, tugs rushed to the scene with shrieking whistles and many men snatched off coats and shoes and sprang into the river to aid the drowning. With thousands of spectators ready to aid and the wharf within grasp, hundreds went to death despite every effort at rescue.

Two Anson Stills Captured in a Week.

Wadesboro Ansonian.

Two stills were captured in Anson County, last week—one Thursday morning by Richmond County officers near the railroad bridge over Pee Dee river and another at Smith's creek, just above Blewett Falls, by Anson officers.

The one captured Saturday night was found by Deputy Sheriff J. T. May, Chief of Police J. Flake Martin and Mr. C. D. Porter. Mr. May had gotten wind of the booze plant, and leaving here at a late hour Saturday night with his two men, found the outfit about 12 o'clock. The furnace was still hot and it appeared that a run had just been finished. The still was a 35-gallon home-made outfit but the still proper was made of sheet copper. The cap consisted of a galvanized bucket. No maso or whiskey was found and it appeared from the slops that the plant had been making whiskey out of brown sugar. The still was brought to Wadesboro. No one was seen about the plant.

Final Statement of Country's Stand in German Controversy.

Washington, July 21.—President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, conferring at the White House tonight, completed the new note to Germany warning her that repetition of a disaster such as that visited upon the Lusitania or any violation of American rights on the high seas resulting in loss of American lives will be regarded as "unfriendly." It will be dispatched tomorrow.

The note is in the nature of a final statement by the United States of the interpretation that will be placed by this government on future transgressions of American rights, and repeats that the American government will leave nothing undone to stand by the position it has previously declared.

Among the points in the new note are:

1. The assumption by the United States that Germany, by declaring her submarine warfare to be a retaliatory measure against the alleged unlawful acts of her enemies, has admitted that the destruction of unresisting merchantment without warning is illegal.

2. German submarine commanders already have proved that they can save the passengers and crews of vessels which can act in conformity with the laws of humanity in making war on enemy ships.

3. The United States cannot allow the relations between the belligerents to operate in any way as an abbreviation of the rights of neutrals, and any violation of the principles for which the American government contends, resulting in a loss of American lives, will be viewed as "unfriendly."

4. The representations which the American government has made in previous notes have been disavowed of the intention to sink the Lusitania with Americans aboard and the request for reparation are reiterated with renewed insistence.

5. The American government realize the unusual and abnormal condition which the present conflict had created in the conduct of maritime warfare and is willing to act as an intermediary as between the belligerents to arrange a modus vivendi or any other temporary arrangement which does not involve a surrender by the United States of its rights.

6. The proposal made by Germany to give immunity to American ships not carrying contraband, and to four belligerents' ships under the American flag, are rejected with the emphatic assertion that to accept such suggestion would be to admit Germany's right to set aside the American contention based on fundamental principles in international law—that neutrals may travel anywhere on the high seas on unresisting ships of any nationality even if carrying contraband.

The note is about 1,200 words long. While nowhere in it is there any indirect intimation of the course with the United States will pursue in the event of another disaster similar to the Lusitania tragedy, there are emphatic statements throughout the communication pointing out that the discussion of the principles involved has been virtually concluded and that future conduct of German submarine commanders will determine the responsibility for the continuance of friendly relations between the two countries.

Note Arouses German Scowls

Berlin, July 25 (Overseas News Agency Dispatch to Sayville, N. Y.)—The latest American note to Germany concerning submarine warfare was received most unfavorably by the German newspapers, in which it was printed Sunday.

The Vossische Zeitung in a lengthy editorial says:

"The refusal to accept Germany's practical proposal to protect American passengers shows an absolute lack of readiness to understand the German standpoint. It is true that belligerents must respect neutral rights but only provided neutrals do everything to prevent their citizens getting into situations where protection is impossible."

"Victory over the enemy is the supreme law for every belligerent. Those who render more difficult this task than does international law support the enemy."

A person who remains within a beleaguered fortress or walks into a gunfire zone risks his life without the right of protection from his home government. The same also is true of naval warfare in spite of the mistaken phrase 'freedom of the seas.' It is granted that the ocean is free for peaceful travel, but naval battles also take place on it. Neutral ships sailing between fighting battleships run the risk of being hit by shells and also of being struck by mines.

Those who demand that Germany should conduct the war according to rules laid down by some academic professor, expect Germany either to endanger her submarines or to give up this warfare, which means the weakening of Germany in the interest of her enemy. This is not neutrality but partisanship against Germany.

"We know today that the passengers (of the Lusitania) could have been saved, but that they were neglected. Germany regrets their death, but she has a clear conscience and has no reason to disapprove of the conduct of her submarine commanders. President Wilson considers the further torpedoing of British warships carrying American passengers a deliberately unfriendly act. While Germany always is glad to respect American friendship, she has conceded everything that can be conceded. One bit more would be considered humiliating."

The Tagliche Rundschau and the Kruetz Zeitung similarly declare that the American note calls for decided opposition and that it requires Great Britain to show at least an equal respect for the spirit of international law as the president demands from Germany.

DeCamp Guesses Cotton Will Stay Low.

Gaffney Ledger.

Of course we are only guessing, but at the same time we hazard this guess: Cotton will continue to decline until December, after which time it will commence to advance until March, when it will reach the neighborhood of ten cents, remain there until the cottonists have planted all they can and then begin to go down again. The system certainly works beautifully for everybody except the poor devil who has mortgaged his cotton crop before he has made it, and it gives him h—l.

Tommy—Pop, what is a pessimist?

Tommy's Pop—A pessimist, my son, is a person who looks for germs in the milk of human kindness.—Ex.

Irreparably Ripped

They were trying a ducky, in a small town on the Lower Cumberland River, for cutting another negro with a razor. The prisoner at the bar was the porter of the local hotel and a general favorite with the white population. So the presiding judge and the prosecutor entered into a conspiracy between themselves to save the accused.

The judge appointed the leading lawyer of the district to represent the ducky, and at the close of the trial His Honor charged the jury in such fashion that it would have been little short of contempt of court upon their part to fail to acquit.

Nevertheless, the jurors, to the surprise of all present, especially the defendant, came in very promptly with a verdict of guilty.

"Jerry," said the judge regretfully, having in mind the memory of many superior mistrials which Jerry had mixed for him, "it is my painful duty to pronounce sentence upon you. Have you anything to say before I fix your punishment?"

"Well, suh, Jedge," said Jerry, "I been sort of tuck up short and I reckon dey ain't much use of me talkin' now. But, Jedge, I will say jest dis: I don't bear you no gredge. Seems lak to me you tried fur to let me off mighty light. And de gen'l man dat you 'pinted to 'fend me he done hisse'f proud and I thanks him. Even de persecutin' attorney gimme a good work. 'Bout dat, dat jury—it is datin' is done tore its pants wid me!"—Saturday Evening Post.

The Old Home Town.

Do you remember the lazy fellow who used to sit around in the implement store and the barber shop in the old home town and predict the failure of every boy who tried to poke his nose above the common herd? Up in the village of Salem they used to crack lots of jokes at the expense of a lank and ungainly young fellow who clerked in the village grocery, poled flat boats on the river and split rails for a living. They called him Abe in those days. He became the President of the United States and thousands from far places on the earth have visited his tomb at Springfield to do him honor. They used to make fun of Bill McAdoo back in the home town. He dug a tunnel under the Hudson River and is Secretary of the Treasury now. But there are a lot of old tads back in the old home town who sort of hope that Bill will fall over something yet and land in the consomme. And Orville Wright was a regular joke in his old home town. It is the old home town itself that is the joke.—Selected.

Davis Mine to be Worked.

Monroe Journal.

The company which some time ago bought the Davis Mine, nine miles northwest of Monroe, is rapidly preparing to work on a large scale. Mr. J. F. Thompson who has a hauling contract for the company, has already hauled four car loads of heavy machinery from Matthews, the shipping point. He hauled the ore mill which weighed within a few pounds of 20,000, and it required eight mules to pull it. The mill is for the purpose of grinding the surface rock and has a capacity of two hundred tons per day.

A Fighting Parson.

A good story is told of Parson McCorquodale, one of the old-fashion preachers in the early days of North Carolina. He lived in Chatham county. At one of his appointments was a big, burley bluffer, named Sandy Murchison, who, from some cause, had said that he intended to thrash the preacher when he put in his appearance at that particular place. Parson McCorquodale came and began his services. In the middle of the exercises the preacher, in a deep sonorous voice, without the least sign of emotion or excitement, said: "Brother Murphy, will you please line out a hymn, while I go out and whip big Sandy Murchison. Don't let the congregation be disturbed in the least."

They began to sign with a heartiness marked with unusual enthusiasm. The parson walked singing as he went, and finding his man, let into Murchison with a vim and vigor that wound up in his giving the bully a sound and genteel thrashing. All the time he was putting in his licks, like beating iron on an anvil (for he was once a blacksmith) the parson was singing, "An' He Rolled on the Cloud, Hallelu-ah." The services went on as if nothing had happened and the parson preached a powerful sermon on, "Sure, we must Fight if we would Win." This is no joke. It is true. Old citizens of Chatham county speak of it in these days.—Everything.

Waxhaw People Eat a Muskrat.

The Waxhaw correspondent of the Charlotte Observer says that one day last week a party composed of preachers, physicians and other prominent citizens of the town, with their wives and a good many young people went over on the pleasant banks of the Twelve Mile Creek for a picnic. The men spent the morning fishing while the ladies prepared a sumptuous "camp-meeting" dinner. All of which is common enough. But what follows "ain't." The men caught a large fat muskrat, and one of the preachers remarked casual like; "They eat em' in Virginia." That was sufficient. The rat was skinned, cleaned and put to cook. How this was accomplished none sayeth, for it is a pertinent fact that a muskrat has an odor attached to him that is in a class with cheap cologne. But the rat was cooked and eaten and the stout-hearted members of the party who ate declared that it was very good.

Mr. and Mrs. Mungo Entertain.

One of the most enjoyable events of the season was a contest party last Thursday evening, given by Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Mungo in honor of Misses Georgia and Ethel Cook.

There were a goodly number of the young people present, and several contests were engaged in. The successful contestants were Misses Ruth Chavis, Wilma Lingle, and Messrs. Robert Turner, Boyd Eubanks and Irwin Gale. The guests were then ushered into the dining hall where ice cream, cake and other dainties were served, which proved the climax of the evening.

The crowd gathered back into the parlor, where some simple yet delightful games were engaged in, after which the crowd departed expressing to Mr. and Mrs. Mungo their gratefulness for affording them the delightful evening.

One Present.